Seventies' Council Rooms,

512 AND 513 CONSTITUTION BUILDING,

SALT LAKE CITY, *September, 1892.*

To the Presidents of the ___Quorum of Seventies.

DEAR BRETHREN:—There are some items of special interest we desire to call your attention to, connected with your duties in the quorum over which you preside. We feel very much encouraged at the evidence of union and progress manifested by the great majority of quorums throughout the church, and realize that commendable progress is being made in many directions; and that possibly never before in the history of the Church, has such a degree of discipline and earnest zeal been made manifest as at the present time, all of which is very gratifying to the brethren who preside over you.

This great body of the Priesthood is playing no unimportant part in the work of the Lord in this dispensation, and it should be the pride of every Seventy to so magnify his calling as to have continually with him the evidence of the approving spirit of the Gospel, and the approbation of our Heavenly Father. There are now but few "scattered" Seventies, and this is as it should be. Nearly every Seventy, who is entitled to this office and calling, has identified himself with some one of the many quorums, and has become an active worker in the Gospel vineyard.

TRANSFERS.

In this connection we desire to impress upon the minds of the brethren the necessity of their securing transfers from their quorums, signed by the Senior President present, and secretary, whenever they change the location of their residence. This is a matter of paramount importance, and should not be neglected.

LICENSES.

All Seventies are expected to obtain their license, and those who have not done so, should immediately make application for them through the quorum secretary, who should be able to impart all necessary information, and see that date of ordination, by whom, number of quorum, Bishop's recommend of standing in the ward, etc., should all be included in the application.

FINANCES

We call your attention to the enclosed statement of the payment made by your quorum to the Seventies' General Fund, with the wish that

should there be any error in the account, attention will be called to it at once, that it may be corrected.

All quorums numbering sixty, and over, are expected to pay into the general fund, thirty-five dollars per annum, and all quorums numbering less, an amount *pro rata*. This should be paid in full by December 31st of each year. Where quorums have been remiss in this direction, they should at once see to it that the balance is forwarded.

EFFICIENT SECRETARIES.

Great care should be used in keeping correct, neat, and concise minutes of the quorum meetings, securing the services of brethren for this duty who have an aptitude for it, who will take a pride in keeping the genealogical and other records of the quorum complete, and who will promptly forward to us all changes in the quorum, together with the statistical and financial reports required, etc

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

The genealogical statistics should be carefully recorded; and all changes, by accessions to the quorum, or by death, removals, or otherwise, should be reported without delay.

PLACE AND TIME OF REGULAR MEETING.

Be kind enough to keep us informed of date and place of your regular meetings, as we may thus be enabled to meet with you from time to time.

PRESIDING OFFICER.

At your regular quorum meetings, the senior President, present, should always preside and have charge of the proceedings. Great care should be exercised in calling the meeting to order promptly on time, and not continuing the session beyond a reasonable hour. The lack of attendance is often to be accounted for by the length and tediousness of the meetings held; every effort should be made to make them interesting and instructive.

HOW TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE QUORUM.

We desire your quorum to be kept full, and therefore recommend that you do not permit many vacancies to occur before taking steps to fill them. In selecting men to fill the vacancies, you will understand that you are limited in your selection to the Elders' Quorums. The mode of procedure in filling vacancies should be as follows: First, inform the Presidency of the Stake that you wish to fill so many vacancies in your quorum, and want his permission to select that many names from the quorums of Elders within your district. Having obtained his assent, consult the Presidents of the Elders' Quorums, and with them select such Elders as are most worthy of advancement into the Seventies' Quorum. Having selected the names you want, submit the list to the Bishop, that he may endorse them as being men of good standing in his ward, if they are; and if they are not, that he may so inform you: for if an Elder is not in good standing in the

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ward where he resides, he is not worthy to be ordained a Seventy. When all is thus made in readiness, if you will inform the First Council, an appointment will be made at our earliest convenience to meet with you and attend to the ordination of the brethren selected.

HOW TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL.

Whenever vacancies occur in the Presidency of your quorum, the Council should be called together, and nominations made of worthy brethren from among the members of the quorum to fill the vacancy. The number of nominations need not be limited to the number of vacancies, but several nominations for each vacancy may be made, and from the list submitted to the First Council a choice will be made. The brethren whose names are submitted should not be informed of their selection until the First Council has taken action in the matter.

THE SELECTION OF MISSIONARIES.

We again call your attention to the all important duties connected with the selection of missionaries, to travel and preach the Gospel. After a call is made upon your quorum, the council should at once convene and make a list of the most eligible names belonging to the quorum. Having found a sufficient number to fill the call, the list should then be submitted to the Bishop of the ward for his endorsement before the brethren are spoken to on the subject. After obtaining the Bishop's endorsement as to their standing in the ward, these brethren should be visited at once and their feelings ascertained relative to filling a mission. Consideration should be had of their financial condition, as it is not intended to place too heavy a burden on any one. In this connection we desire to say, that it is our firm conviction that a Seventy will often find the easiest solution of his financial troubles by filling a mission, and will, in the end, receive a blessing, much more than commensurate with the sacrifice made.

The list of names should then be presented to the President of the Stake for his endorsement, and the list so endorsed should then, and not until then, be forwarded to this council.

In making these selections Presidents of quorums should be careful not to seriously interfere with the local organization of the ward, so as to not leave it in a crippled condition. Every effort should be made to observe the proper courtesy that should exist between these organizations, that there may be no conflict of interest, but that all may work together harmoniously. In the meantime the brethren should not make any definite arrangements about leaving home, until notified by letter from the First Presidency of the Church as to when and where they will be wanted. The very greatest care should be exercised in the selection of missionaries, and only those who are worthy to be the bearers of the message of life and salvation should be selected. Men are wanted whose age and physical condition will enable them to perform the arduous duties that devolve upon a missionary.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS.

Where you have brethren who are derelict in their duties, and setting

an example unworthy of a Seventy, they should be labored with, and, if they fail to reform, should be dealt with, and not permitted to retain their standing and continue in wrong-doing. Should it become necessary to withdraw the hand of fellowship from any brother, his license should be demanded, and if he refuses to give it up, it should be cancelled by the vote of the quorum, and public notice given of the action taken.

TRANSFER OF AGED BRETHREN.

Where brethren of the Council or Quorum have arrived at an age, or through physical disabilities, are not able to perform the duties that devolve upon a Seventy, we recommend that they secure transfers to the High Priests' Quorum, that they may have the privileges of their meetings, and not be expected to accomplish labors beyond their strength. These brethren have, as a rule, borne the heat and burden of the day, and in the evening of their lives are entitled to the kindly care and consideration of those who follow in their footsteps and emulate their example.

THEOLOGICAL CLASSES.

Measures should at once be taken to organize theological classes in all the quorums, that these classes may be in good working order in ample time for the long evenings of the fall and winter. We cannot impress too forcibly upon your minds, the necessity of making this work a preparation for the missionary labor the Seventies are expected to perform. Each member of the quorum, and particularly the younger members, should be encouraged to speak upon the first principles of the Gospel, and all doubtful or intricate subjects should be avoided. In short—the class should be made a drill ground, to prepare men to intelligently present the Gospel to the world. Presidents of quorums should not occupy too much time in the quorum meetings; for by so doing they destroy their influence as presiding officers, and render the meetings tedious and therefore unprofitable.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion we trust you will use every exertion to make your labors successful, and thus aid in the promulgation of truth, and the establishment of righteousness in this great dispensation of the Gospel, in so doing you have our faith and prayers, and the blessings of our Heavenly Father.

The General Secretary will be in the office week days, Tuesday excepted, between 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

With love and kind regards, we remain, your brethren in the new and everlasting covenant,

SEYMOUR B. YOUNG
C. D. FJELDSTED,
JOHN MORGAN,
B. H. ROBERTS,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JONATHAN G. KIMBALL.

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